

Agency: Department of Transportation/Public Facilities**Project Title:**

Copper River Highway: Mile 38-43 Highway Protection

State Funding Requested: \$ 5,100,000**House District: 5 - C**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

The Copper River highway is subject to severe erosion. The funding requested will install several culverts and protect the highway from future erosion.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$5,100,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The proposed funding would be utilized to raise the highway grade approximately 4-6 feet through this section of the Copper River Highway. The highway embankment adjacent to the Copper River would also be armored to protect against future erosion. In addition, several new culverts would be installed to help protect against flooding.

The Copper River has been migrating to the West over the last several years and is now located almost immediately adjacent to the Copper River Highway between Milepost 38-43. This section of highway has no erosion protection and has been over-topped by flood waters several times in the last 2 years. M&O has had to repair this section of highway several times recently. The most recent occurrence was in September 07 when M&O spent approximately \$80,000 to prevent the highway from washing out.

Project Timeline:

Funding will be secured in July of 08 with construction beginning immediately and completing in the summer of 2009.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Department of Transportation

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Michael Coffey, Chief Statewide Maintenance and Operations

Phone Number: (907) 465-3904

Address: 6860 Glacier Hgwy, Juneau, AK 99811

Email: mike.coffey@alaska.gov

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Kaci Schroeder

From: Kaci Schroeder
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 11:01 AM
To: Ian Fisk
Subject: FW: Paved State Streets in Cordova

From: Kate Tesar [mailto:kmtesar@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 1:13 PM
To: Kaci Schroeder
Subject: Re: Paved State Streets in Cordova

Here is what we need.....priority #3

\$5 million can help at 38-43 Mile. This is also our # 3 priority.

The Copper River Highway between Mile 38 and Mile 43 is in critical need of repair and upgrade. The Copper River has changed course, possibly because of the 100 year floods in 2006. One channel of the Copper River is running parallel to the highway and flooded the highway twice last summer. Only because of the hard work of the local DOT personnel and every contractor in Cordova was the highway saved from washing out. The volume of water that is passing under bridges near this area far exceeds the design of the bridges, and failure of several bridges is very possible in the next year or two.

Bridge support pilings that were 80 ft deep are now swinging free in the current. **The short term fix for this state highway is to armor the sides of the road with large rock and raise the road bed two to three feet.** The long term fix is to install one or more new bridges to allow water to pass under the road relieving pressure on the road, existing bridges, and allowing for salmon passage. Currently, salmon are trapped below several culverts meant for rainwater discharge which are now several feet under river water with large whirl pools over the intakes.

This highway provides access to Childs Glacier and the Childs Glacier Campground. The state and federal government each contributed \$1 million to upgrade and expand this campground in 2006 and 2007. It also accesses the Million Dollar Bridge. Recent repairs to this bridge by the state have exceeded \$18 million. Both of these locations are world class tourist attractions and are the support base of the summer tourist economy in Cordova. The Copper River Highway also provides access to the sonar camp operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game which is used to enumerate salmon up the Copper River. This information impacts a multimillion dollar salmon fishery. This highway also provides access to the Native Village of Eyak's fish wheel study area, and in conjunction with the sonar, enumerates the number of Chinook salmon passing up the Copper River. It also provides access to the east Copper River Delta and the natural resources that are located in that area.

Kaci Schroeder

From: Siroky, Mary P (DOT) [mary.siroky@alaska.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2008 1:04 PM
To: Kaci Schroeder
Subject: FW: Copper River Highway - Short and Sweet

Here is the info I have on the copper river hwy. I know I have something on craig klawock hwy I just have to figure out where.

Let me know if this meets your information needs or if you need more.

-m-

From: Coffey, Michael J (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2008 9:26 AM
To: Siroky, Mary P (DOT)
Subject: Copper River Highway - Short and Sweet

Copper river Highway Milepost 38-43

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Michael J. Coffey

Chief, Statewide Maintenance and Operations

Office of the Commissioner

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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